

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1



is a beautiful new compilation of expressive verse by the beloved poet Helen Steiner Rice. You'll enjoy poems never before published in book form, along with some of your old favorites. Each has been specially selected to center around themes from the Book of Ecclesiastes, one of the most profound and well-read books in the Bible. Themes include:

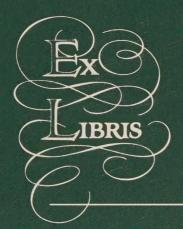
A Time to Be Born

A Time to Heal

A Time to Be Silent

A Time to Mourn

Included in this special volume are excerpts from Mrs. Rice's journals and personal correspondence. They provide a unifying thread to this collection and give you intimate glimpses into the life of America's favorite inspirational poet.





# Presented to \_\_\_\_\_



From \_\_\_\_\_





### Helen Steiner Rice

Time to Love

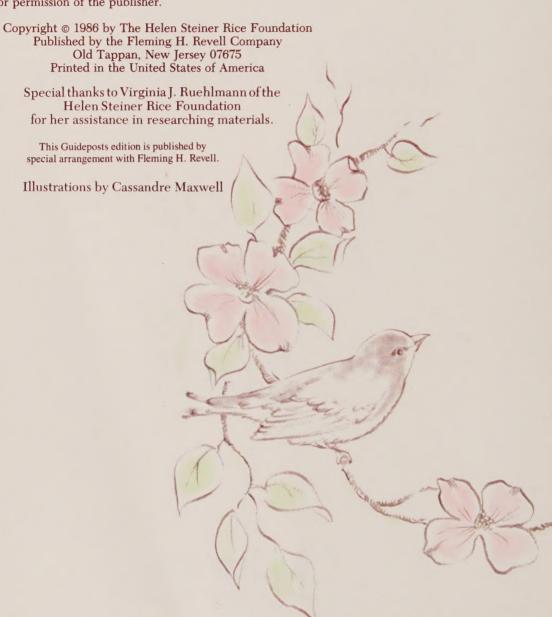
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CARMEL . NEW YORK 10512

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# Contents

Publisher's Foreword	6
A Time to Be Born	11
A Time to Love	27
A Time to Heal	47
A Time to Be Silent	67
A Time to Mourn	87
A Time for Peace	111

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1





Publisher's Foreword

There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NIV

a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. The poet who penned these lines captured in their simplest form life's fundamental truths. The words seem common, the thoughts obvious. But in reading, we discover a curious comfort in these simple words, whose very cadence echoes the deepest rhythms of our lives.

Our lives are measured by rhythms. The first months of life are marked by the beat of our mother's heart. God patterns our lives with the ebb and flow of the ocean tides, the phases of the moon, and the turning of the seasons. The festivals and fastings of the church year mark our spiritual seasons. And each one of us has her own personal, unique set of celebrations and remembrances: the birthday of a friend, the death of a spouse, the anniversary of a marriage. Indeed, it would be impossible to imagine our lives without these rhythms. Through them, we are able to savor the past, embrace the present, and reach for the future.

Poets are especially attuned to these rhythms of life, and Helen Steiner Rice was no exception. Helen totally embraced life and its many changes; she personally experienced its ebb and flow. She knew exhilarating joy and heartbreaking sorrow. She understood the butterfly-in-the-tummy happiness of a new love and the sad loss of a beloved husband. In short she embraced in grand fashion the celebrations of life. She used these seasons and rhythms to restore order, to encourage the wounded, to comfort the mourning, to rejoice with the newlyweds, to celebrate a new arrival, to reflect on the simple, good things in life.

Her poems were written to commemorate events. She often sent specially composed poems—congratulations to a niece who was getting married, expressions of joy to a co-worker who just had a child, a letter offering solace to a grieving friend.

We have gathered her poems and letters marking the rhythms of life under lines from Ecclesiastes, adding as seasoning passages from Scripture and traditional prayers. Our intention is to allow you the reader to experience the comfort and joy in the seasons of life that Helen wished for each of her many readers. You may wish to start at the beginning and relish the patterns and pace of the book as a whole, or you may prefer to pick out a section of poems that will meet a specific need in your life. However you chose to read her work, we encourage you to open yourself to that gift of hope that Helen offered to all her readers.

Go with joy.



#### A Part of Me

Dear God, You are a part of me You're all I hear and all I see You're what I say and what I do For all my life belongs to You You walk with me and talk with me For I am Yours eternally And when I stumble, slip, and fall Because I'm weak and lost and small You help me up and take my hand And lead me toward the Promised Land I cannot dwell apart from You, You would not ask or want me to, For You have room within Your heart To make each child of Yours a part Of You and all Your love and care



### A Time to Be Born

#### And Mary said:

"My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."



### Tender Words of Welcome for the New Baby

Welcome to this world we live in! Your coming has been eagerly awaited, and now that you are here, Mommy and Daddy are so proud of you!

You are starting life surrounded by love and affection, for your parents are devoted to you. And in the shelter of their loving arms, your babyhood will be comfortable, safe, and happy! And always your Heavenly Father, who sent you as a Gift of Love to bless your Mommy and Daddy, will have you in His Care so no harm can befall you.

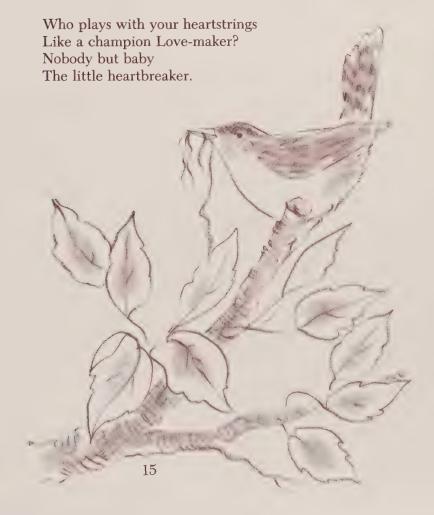
From the moment of your birth, you have embarked on a Great Adventure. You have so many things to learn—things about yourself, about the world, and about the people all around you. You will learn to appreciate Beauty. You will experience the joy of sharing and caring. You will come to know the satisfaction of work well done. You will have sunny days and happy hours, but there will be times when the clouds are heavy and the going is tough, and you will know the pain of dark hours and anxiety and uncertainty. There will be many to help you along the way, and, in turn, you will help others. For in helping others, we are helping ourselves, and in kindness to others, we serve and help our Father in heaven, too! You will do your part to make this world a better place in which to live, and God will look down and bless you!



#### The Little Heartbreaker

Who steals into your heart With magical touch, Who ensnares your love In a wee angel clutch,

Who makes you a slave And a worshiper, too, Who gets adoration So lavish and true,

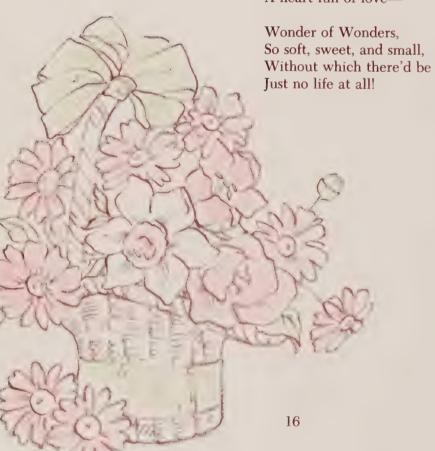


#### A Gift of Life

A baby is a gift of life
born of "the wonder of love,"
A little bit of eternity
sent from the Father above,
Giving a new dimension
to the love between husband and wife
And putting an added new meaning
to the wonder and mystery of life!

#### What Is a Baby?

A wee bit of heaven
Drifted down from above,
A handful of happiness,
A heart full of love—



#### Greatest Career Is Womanhood

So glad a tiny baby came To share your life and love and name For no doubt she is the greatest claim That you have ever had to fame And don't misunderstand me, dear You were a "star" in your career. But what, I ask you, is success Compared to "heaven's happiness" And how could "plaudits" anywhere Be half as wonderful and fair? For this experience of the heart Surpasses any skill or art And no awards that you may win Will "thrill you" like wee Laura Lynn For man excels in every line But woman has a gift divine And in this world there is no other As greatly honored as a mother.



#### Ten Little Fingers

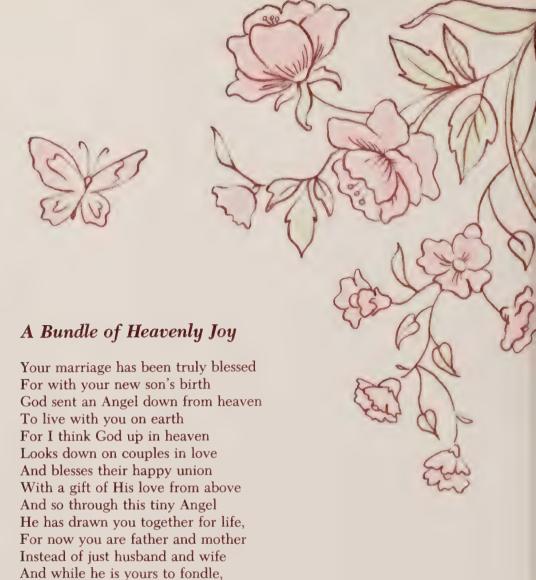
Ten little fingers
Ten little toes
Tiny as a minute
Sweet as a rose...
One of life's mysteries
Which nobody knows...
And one of the miracles
Only God can disclose.



#### A Gift From Above

I'm so glad your home has been blessed With the Dearest and Sweetest and most sacredly best Of all of life's gifts that come from above And are born of the beauty and wonder of love ... For God sends "small angels" to a husband and wife To add deeper meaning to their married life ... And while she is yours to fondle and love, She really belongs to her Father above And God only entrusted "His Angel" to you, So ask Him for guidance in all that you do And tell her that Jesus has her in His care And, whenever she needs Him, He will be there!





To care for, to teach, and to love, He belongs to his Father in heaven, For he came from His home up above So ask Him for guidance in molding

For he is a "jewel" from His kingdom Sent to bring you "heavenly joy!"

The future of your little boy,



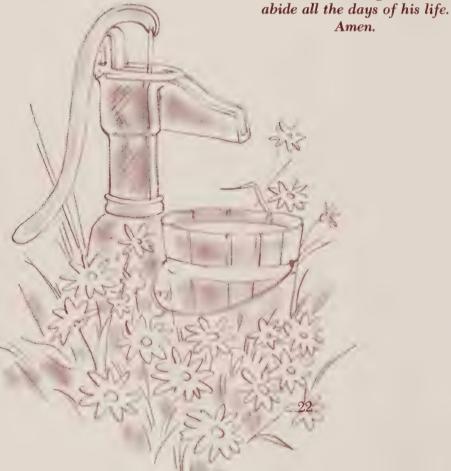
#### Thoughts of Love on Your Birthday

Birthdays are occasion for compliments and praise And saying many of the things we don't say other days-For thoughts of love and gratitude are fragile, cherished things, As gossamer as fleecy clouds or hummingbirds' small wings, And often through the passing days we feel deep down inside Unspoken thoughts of thankfulness and fond, admiring pride-But words can say so little when the heart is overflowing And often those we love the most must have no way of knowing The many things the heart conceals and never can impart, For words seem so inadequate to express what's in the heart— But since it is your birthday I thought it would be nice If I let this first edition verse by Helen Steiner Rice In some small way express the things that I would like to say Not only on your birthday but on every other day.

#### A Birthday Blessing

May your birthday be especially blest With all that makes you happiest And may He who hears our smallest prayer Keep you always in His Care.

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his days increase;
bless and guide him wherever he may be.
Strengthen him when he stands;
comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful;
raise him up if he falls;
and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding



### Another Birthday And Another Year Closer to God!

Your many years of loving God
have been golden years well spent,
Which have brought a "golden harvest"
of deep serene content...

For glorious is the gladness and rich is the reward

Of all who work unceasingly in the service of the Lord . . .

And I know our Heavenly Father has directed you each day

As you tried to serve and please Him as you followed in His way . . .

And looking back across your life your spirit grows serene

As your soul in love envisions what your eyes have never seen . . .

And while the springtime of your life is pleasant to recall,

You know the autumn of life is the richest time of all . . .

For great has been your gladness and priceless your reward

As through the years you walked with joy in "The Vineyard of the Lord,"

For to know God and to serve Him is a "Joy beyond all price"—

And no one knows this better than Helen Steiner Rice!



#### Birthdays Are a Gift From God

Where does *time* go in its endless flight— Spring turns to fall and day to night, And birthdays come and birthdays go And where they go we do not know ... But God who planned our life on earth And gave our mind and body birth And then enclosed a living soul With heaven as the spirit's goal Has given man the gift of choice To follow that small inner voice That speaks to us from year to year Reminding us we've naught to fear . . . For birthdays are a stepping-stone To endless joys as yet unknown, So fill each day with happy things And may your burdens all take wings And fly away and leave behind Great joy of heart and peace of mind . . . For birthdays are the gateway to An endless life of joy for you If you but pray from day to day That He will show you the *Truth* and the *Way*.



#### **Another Happy Year**

The years go by so swiftly I simply can't conceive That tomorrow is your birthday and once more you'll receive Birthday cards that wish you another happy year. But I can't dispute the calendar so "Happy Birthday," dear . . . And while the "way" gets rougher as we "climb the rising slope," As long as we have courage and love and faith and hope. We can go on undaunted in the blessed reassurance That God will "lift our burdens" and give us "new endurance" . . . And you and I know, my dear friend, that God and God alone Could make it possible to bear the "burdens you have known" . . . And He has brought you safely through many troubled hours And warmed your heart with "sunshine" that always followed "showers" . . . And as you start another year

here's hoping you will find

and abiding peace of mind.

Some unexpected happiness



### A Time to Love

And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love. I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cumbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all musteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not selfseeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13



#### He Loves You!

It's amazing and incredible, But it's as true as it can be. God loves and understands us all And that means you and me-His grace is all sufficient For both the young and old, For the lonely and the timid, For the brash and for the bold— His love knows no exceptions, So never feel excluded No matter who or what you are Your name has been included— And no matter what your past has been, Trust God to understand, And no matter what your problem is Just place it in His hand— For in all of our unloveliness This great God loves us still. He loved us since the world began And what's more, He always will!

30

#### Where There Is Love

Where there is love the heart is light,
Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going wrong,
Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem more worthwhile,
Where there is love there's quiet peace,
A tranquil place where turmoils cease . . .
Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take "wingless flight"—
Oh, blest are they who walk in love . . .
They also walk with God above,
And when man walks with God again
There shall be Peace on Earth for men.



#### Love: God's Gift Divine

Love is enduring And patient and kind, It judges all things With the heart not the mind, And love can transform The most commonplace Into beauty and splendor And sweetness and grace . . . For love is unselfish, Giving more than it takes, And no matter what happens Love never forsakes, It's faithful and trusting And always believing, Guileless and honest And never deceiving . . . Yes, love is beyond What man can define, For love is immortal And God's Gift is Divine! And underneath this refuge Are the everlasting arms— So cast your burden on Him, Seek His counsel when distressed. And go to Him for comfort When you're lonely and oppressed— For God is our encouragement In trouble and in trials, And in suffering and in sorrow He will turn our tears to smiles.

#### What More Can You Ask

God's love endureth forever-What a wonderful thing to know When the tides of life run against you And your spirit is downcast and low . . . God's kindness is ever around you. Always ready to freely impart Strength to your faltering spirit, Cheer to your lonely heart . . . God's presence is ever beside you, As near as the reach of your hand, You have but to tell Him your troubles, There is nothing He won't understand . . . And knowing God's love is unfailing, And His mercy unending and great, You have but to trust in His promise— "God comes not too soon or too late" ... So wait with a heart that is patient For the goodness of God to prevail— For never do prayers go unanswered, And His mercy and love never fail.

#### To Meet Old Friends

Somehow, meeting old friends and embracing them with your heart is like the "warmth of a home fireside" and the "loveliness of a rose garden."

All the vexations and irritations of a busy day were softened by the remembrance of that "shining hour" we spent together this morning.



# The Gift of Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift That cannot be bought or sold, But its value is far greater Than a mountain made of gold— For gold is cold and lifeless, It can neither see nor hear, And in the time of trouble It is powerless to cheer—-It has no ears to listen, No heart to understand. It cannot bring you comfort Or reach out a helping hand— So when you ask God for a Gift, Be thankful if He sends Not diamonds, pearls, or riches, But the love of real true friends.

## The Magic of Love

Love is like Magic And it always will be, For love still remains Life's sweet mystery!

Love works in ways That are wondrous and strange And there's nothing in life That love cannot change!

Love can transform The most commonplace Into beauty and splendor And sweetness and grace!

Love is unselfish, Understanding and kind, For it sees with its heart And not with its mind!

Love is the answer
That everyone seeks—
Love is the language
That every heart speaks—

Love can't be bought, It is priceless and free, Love like pure magic Is a sweet mystery!





the season of singing has come,

the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit: the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

Song of Songs 2:8-13

## The Meaning of True Love

It is sharing and caring, Giving and forgiving, Loving and being loved, Walking hand in hand, Talking heart to heart, Seeing through each other's eyes, Laughing together, Weeping together, Praying together, And always trusting And believing And thanking God For each other . . . For love that is shared is a beautiful thing-It enriches the soul and makes the heart sing!



#### Romance

If you have Romance don't sell it— Keep it—treasure it—cherish it It is worth all odds For while you have romance, you have love But once you mistreat it, It will leave you And then you are poor indeed For you have lost love.

## The Gift of Lasting Love

Love is much more than a tender caress and more than bright hours of gay happiness,

For a lasting love is made up of sharing both hours that are "joyous" and also "despairing" . . .

It's made up of patience and deep understanding and never of selfish and stubborn demanding,

It's made up of climbing the steep hills together and facing with courage life's stormiest weather

And nothing on earth or in heaven can part a love that has grown to be part of the heart,

And just like the sun and the stars and the sea, this love will go on through *eternity*—

For "true love" lives on when earthly things die, for it's part of the Spirit that soars to the sky.



#### If I Could Tell You

It's such a quiet lovely thing It doesn't ask for much It isn't untamed longing That cries for passion's touch It's not built upon the "quicksand" Of a pair of lips and arms For only "false foundations" Are raised on physical charms I wish that I could tell you About this thing I feel It's intangible like gossamer But like a hoop of steel It binds me very close to you And opens up the door To more real deep contentment Than I've ever known before You see your music reaches Beyond where words dare pass It's like a "soul's communion" Or a sacred Holy Mass It's something indefinable Like sea and sky and sod It might be just enchantment But I like to think it's God.



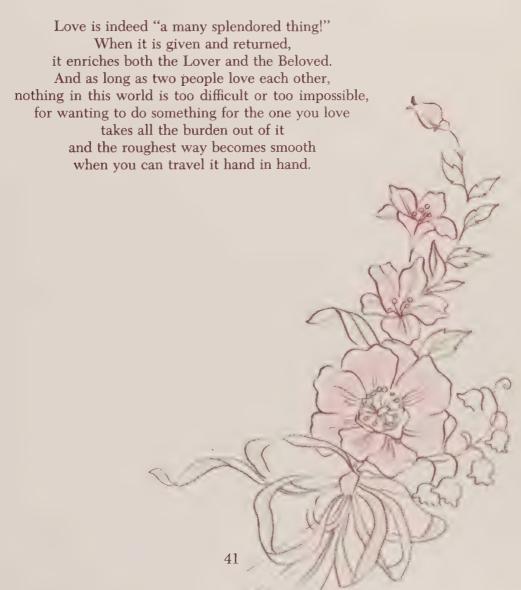


#### Remember These Words

We are gathered together on this happy day To stand before God and to reverently say: I take thee to be my partner for life, To love and to live with as husband and wife: To have and to hold forever, sweetheart. Through sickness and health until death do us part: To love and to cherish whatever betide. And in better or worse to stand by your side We do this not lightly but solemnly, Lord, Asking Thy blessing as we live in accord With Thy Holy Precepts which join us in love And assure us Thy guidance and grace from above And grant us, dear Lord, that "I will" and "I do" Are words that grow deeper and more meaningful, too. Through long happy years of caring and sharing, Secure in the knowledge that we are preparing A love that is endless and never can die But finds its fulfillment with You in the "sky."

## A Marriage Blessing

As you enter into the little world
that you promised to make brighter for each other,
may He who harnesses the waves
and hangs the sun out in the sky
and puts the song in the birds
especially bless you
and make your marriage a good and a happy one!





#### On Your Wedding Day

I know your heart is filled with a happiness that is so breathtakingly wonderful that it makes you almost afraid! You wish you could capture and hold this beautiful joy forever changeless and unchanging through the years, but, great shining hours, like your wedding day, cannot continue at this pinnacle of ecstasy or your heart would surely burst with the beauty of it.

But God is Love and He made the human heart capable of this great miracle of love so that we might glimpse heaven and experience that divine touch, and in the wonder and awe of this newfound glory we might feel His nearness and realize that it is He and He alone who can make love eternal.

So, I ask that God grant you faith in each other and faith in Him so that your love becomes part of His love, and with His guidance and His blessing, may you live together bravely and beautifully, sharing sunshine and rain... smiles and tears... bitter and sweet! May your faith in God and each other give you the strength and the patience to overcome the temptations of impulsive young hearts, so that no misunderstandings may divide you or disturb you. Through the years, may your physical love become a "GREAT LIGHT" that illuminates the soul so that the "tranquil loveliness of eventide" is even more wonderful than the "glory of love's dawn."

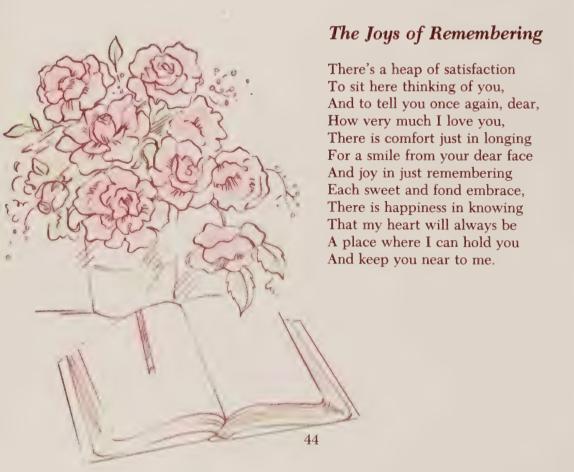
May God bless your Wedding Day, hallow your marriage night, and sanctify your motherhood if He sees fit to grant you that privilege.

Today you love each other with your hearts . . . but with God's eye upon you, you will come to love each other with your souls and then, my dear, your love is eternal, and you will take it with you to the skies.



#### To Franklin

In my eyes there lies no vision
But the sight of your dear face
In my heart there is no feeling
But the warmth of your embrace
In my mind there are no thoughts
But the thoughts of you, my dear
In my soul no other longing
But just to have you near
All my dreams are built around you
And I've come to know it's true
In my life there is no living
That is not a part of you.



# An Anniversary Blessing

You've come a long way, over smooth roads and rough, But you've had each other and that was enough. For even the darkest and stormiest weather Brings a "rainbow of love" when you share it together And because you have shared your smiles and your tears, You've built up "rich treasures" in these many years For the memories of things you've both shared and faced Are engraved in your hearts and they can't be erased. And life with its problems has been but the blending Of a love that's divine and therefore unending For love that endures through a long, earthly life And keeps folks together as husband and wife Is fashioned by God and you both have been true To the marriage vows that were taken by you ... And all of your children and their children, too, And their children's children are so proud of you, For you are a couple who walked with the Lord And a long, fruitful life is the good Lord's reward . . . So here's to the groom and here's to the bride Who for many long years have stood side by side!





# A Time to Heal

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,

and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes.
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling even the LORD, who is my refuge then no harm will befall you,

no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Psalm 91





## A Special Prayer for You

Oh, Blessed Father, hear this prayer and keep all of us in Your care
Give us patience and inner sight, too, just as You often used to do
When on the shores of the Galilee
You touched the blind and they could see
And cured the man who long was lame when he but called Your Holy Name!



You are so Great
we are so small
And when trouble comes
as it does to us all
There's so little that we can do
except to place our trust in You!
So take the Saviour's loving Hand
and do not try to understand
Just let Him lead you where He will
through "pastures green and waters still"
And place yourself in His loving care
and He will gladly help you bear
Whatever lies ahead of you
and God will see you safely through
And no earthly pain is ever too much
if God bestows His merciful touch.

So I commend you into His care
with a loving thought and a Special Prayer
And always remember, Whatever betide you
God is always beside you
And you cannot go beyond His love and care
for we are all a part of God,
and God is everywhere!

#### A Seed Is Sown

Seed must be sown to
Bring forth the grain,
And nothing is born
Without suffering and pain
And God never ploughs in
The soul of man
Without intention and
Purpose and plan.



#### Comfort in Illness

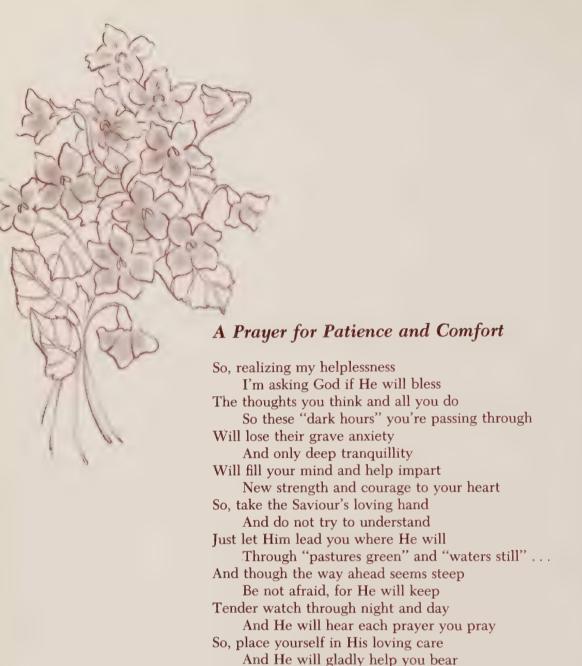
It makes me sad to think of you Filled with pain and discomfort, too But I know there's nothing I can do But talk to the Lord and pray for you

I wish I could wipe away every trace Of pain and suffering from your face But HE is *great* and we are small We just can't alter His will at all

And none of us would want to try For more and more, as days go by, We know His plan for us is best And He will give us Peace and Rest

And earthly pain is never too much If He has bestowed His merciful touch And if you look to Him and Pray He will help you through every day.





For God is your Father and you are His own!

For there is nothing God can't do ...

So, I commend you into God's care
And each day I will say a prayer
That you will feel His presence near
To help dissolve your every fear!

Whatever lies ahead of you



## A Garden of Sunshine

Just peeping in to say hello
and wish you well, my dear

If I could "hang the sunshine out"
you'd never shed a tear

But life is meant for teardrops
and loneliness and sorrow

But God has promised sunshine
in the garden of tomorrow!

And He will bless and keep you
in His tender care

For we are all a part of God
and God is everywhere.



## All Things Pass

Let all your thoughts be happy, dear, To chase away all thoughts of fear. Think of lovely things you've seen Like rolling slopes of velvet green, Fluffy clouds of azure blue, Sparkling drops of crystal dew, Robin redbreasts on the wing Telling us again it's spring, Golden beds of daffodils, Violets blooming on a hill . . . Don't "cloud" your mind with anxious fear, Just fill your heart with "sunny cheer," And waiting days will soon be over And you'll again be "back in clover" For "all things pass" . . . and this will, too, And with God's help you'll come "smiling through."

57

# A Prayer for Healing

I just wish I knew some magic words to say To take your troubles all away, But at times like these we realize That God who is both kind and wise, Can do what none of us can do And that's to *heal* and comfort you So I commend you to His care And may He hear your smallest prayer And grant returning health to you As only He alone can do.



## Faith for Dark Days

When "dark days" come, and they come to us all We feel so helpless and lost and small We cannot fathom the reason why And it is futile for us to try To find the answer, the reason or cause For the master plan is without any flaws And when the darkness shuts out the light We must lean on faith to restore our sight For there is nothing that we need to know If we have faith that wherever we go God will be there to help us bear Our disappointments,

pain and care

For He is our Shepherd our Father—our Guide And you're never alone

with the Lord at your side So may the Great Physician attend you

And may His healing completely mend you.



Good Shepherd of the sheep,
you gather the lambs in your arms
and carry them in your bosom:
We commend to your loving care this child.
Relieve his pain, guard him from all danger,
restore to him your gifts of gladness and strength,
and raise him up to a life of service to you.
Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake.



#### Into God's Hands

There is so little any of us can do, But I know that God will take care of you. For He's so great and we're so small, But He is mindful of us all And I will say a little prayer And "place you safely" in His care!

And so I commend you into God's Hands—and there is no safer place in all the universe in which to leave anyone, than in the Hands of God.

And now, may He who lived in Galilee And healed the many there Be near to you and heal you, too, And keep you in His care.



#### The Paradox of Pain

Paradoxical though it is, there is nothing in life worthwhile that is not attained through suffering and conflict. But suffering and sorrow are not too great a price to pay for the enriching privilege of touching other lives with more compassion and deeper understanding. And all the sweetest things in life come to us on the "wings of pain and tears," giving us a new awareness of God's greatness, His goodness, and His grace!

I know for "certain-sure" that my trials and tribulations have transformed my life completely, and I am satisfied that my "afflictions" are truly "gifts sent in disguise," which sometimes we fail to recognize.





## There Are Blessings in Everything

Blessings come in many guises
That God alone in love devises,
And sickness which we dread so much
Can bring a very "healing touch"—
For often on the "wings of pain"
The peace we sought before in vain
Will come to us with "sweet surprise"
For God is merciful and wise—
And through long hours of tribulation
God gives us time for meditation,
And no sickness can be counted loss
That teaches us to "bear our cross."



By your patience in suffering
you hallowed earthly pain
and gave us the example
of obedience to your Father's will:
Be near me in my time of weakness and pain;
sustain me by your grace,
that my strength and courage may not fail;
Heal me according to your will;
and help me always to believe
that what happens to me here
is of little account if you hold me in eternal life,
my Lord and my God.
Amen.







#### God's Tender Care

When trouble comes, as it does to us all God is so great and we are so small-But there is nothing that we need know If we have faith that wherever we go God will be waiting to help us bear Our pain and sorrow, our suffering and care-For no pain or suffering is ever too much To yield itself to God's merciful touch!



# A Time to Be Silent

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near
Let the wicked forsake his way
and the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn to the LORD,
and he will have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"

declares the LORD.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater.

so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:6-12



O God of Peace
who has taught us that
in returning and rest we shall be saved,
in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength:
By the might of thy Spirit lift us,
we pray thee, to thy presence,
where we may be still and know that thou art God.
Amen.



## A Prayer for Patience

God, teach me to be patient— Teach me to go slow— Teach me how to "wait on You" When my way I do not know Teach me sweet forbearance When things do not go right So I remain unruffled When others grow uptight Teach me how to quiet My racing, rising heart So I may hear the answer You are trying to impart Teach me to let go, dear God, And pray undisturbed until My heart is filled with inner peace And I learn to know Your will!

## The Peace of Meditation

So we may know God better And feel His quiet power, Let us daily keep in silence A meditation hour— For to understand God's greatness And to use His gifts each day The soul must learn to meet Him In a meditative way. For our Father tells His children That if they would know His will They must seek Him in the silence When all is calm and still . . . For nature's greatest forces Are found in quiet things Like softly falling snowflakes Drifting down on angels' wings, Or petals dropping soundlessly From a lovely full-blown rose, So God comes closest to us When our souls are in repose . . . So let us plan with prayerful care To always allocate A certain portion of each day To be still and meditate . . . For when everything is quiet And we're lost in meditation, Our soul is then preparing For a deeper dedication That will make it wholly possible To quietly endure The violent world around us— For in God we are secure.

### The Best Things

The best things are nearest:

breath in your nostrils,

light in your eyes,

flowers at your feet,

duties at your hand,
the path of Right just before you.

Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life's plain, common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things of life.



#### **Trouble**

God help us to accept Your love that You offer us so freely And make us ever thankful that You give it lavishly But make us also conscious that Your love comes in many ways And not always just as happiness and bright and shining days But often You send trouble and we foolishly reject it Not realizing that it is Your Will and we should joyously accept it And in trouble and in gladness we can always hear Your voice If we listen in the silence and find a reason to rejoice.



#### Renewal

When life has lost its luster and it's filled with dull routine When you long to run away from it seeking pastures "new and green" Remember, no one runs away from life without finding when they do You can't escape the thoughts you think that are pressing down on you For though the scenery may be different it's the same old heart and mind And the same old restless longings that you tried to leave behind So when your heart is heavy and your day is dull with care Instead of trying to escape why not withdraw in prayer For in prayer there is renewal of the spirit, mind, and heart For everything is lifted up in which God has a part. . . . For when we go to God in prayer our thoughts are rearranged So even though our problems have not been solved or changed Somehow the good Lord gives us the power to understand That He who holds tomorrow is the One who holds our hand.

This is another day, O Lord.

I know not what it will bring forth,
but make me ready, Lord,
for whatever it may be.

If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely.
If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly.
If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently.
And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly.
Amen.

## The Voice of God

Within the crowded city . . . where life is swift and fleet
Do you ever look for Jesus upon the busy street?
Above the noise and laughter that is empty, cruel, and loud
Do you listen for the voice of God in the restless surging crowd?
Do you pause in meditation upon life's thoroughfare
And offer up thanksgiving or say a word of prayer?
Well, if you would find the Saviour no need to search afar
For God is all around you no matter where you are
And whether on a country road . . . or a busy crowded street.

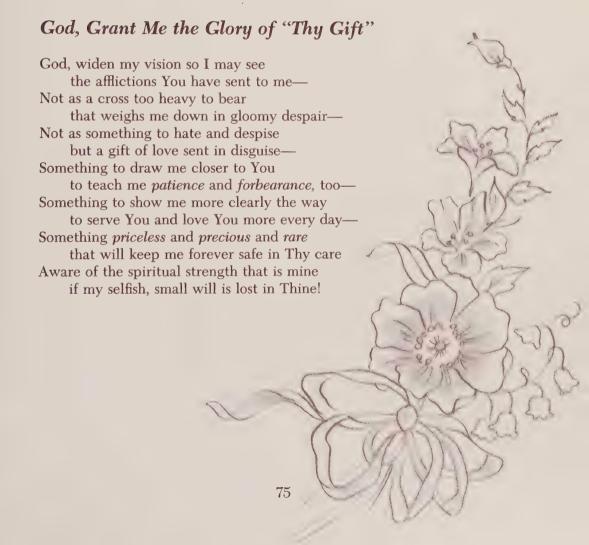
#### Seldom Seen

I don't see you as often as I used to, it's true But that doesn't stop me from thinking of you.

And while life is crowded with things that annoy And we seldom have time to see folks we enjoy

I want you to know you're too nice to forget And I'll always be glad that you and I met

For you're that unforgettable kind That stays mirrored in the heart and mind.



## **God Speaks**

So when I looked at those flowers, I was looking at God For they bloomed in His sun and grew in His sod And each lovely flower was a "voice from above" That whispered a message of Kindness and Love For I feel in my heart, and I know you do, too, That God speaks to us all through the kind things we do And when I looked at those flowers I couldn't help but feel That they brought heaven nearer and made God so real.

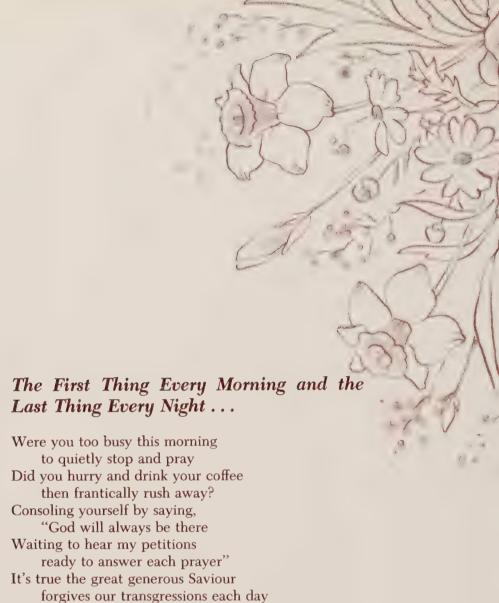


#### When the Pressures Mount

My days are so crowded and my hours are so few, There's so little time and so much to do. My work is unfinished and my desk is piled high, And my unanswered mail seems to reach to the sky. I'm pressured and pushed until I am "dizzy" There's never a minute I'm not "crazily busy" And sometimes, I wonder as I rush through the day Does God really want me to hurry this way? Why am I impatient and continually vexed, And often bewildered, disturbed, and perplexed? Perhaps, I'm too busy with my own selfish seeking To hear the dear Lord when He's tenderly speaking. I'm working so tensely in my self-centered way, I've no time to listen for what God has to say And hard as I work, at the end of the day I know in my heart I did not "pay my way" But God in His mercy looks down on us all And though what we've done is so pitifully small He makes us feel welcome to kneel down and pray For the chance to do better

as we start a new day!





Waiting to hear my petitions
ready to answer each prayer"

It's true the great generous Saviour
forgives our transgressions each day

And patiently waits for "lost sheep"
who constantly seem to stray—

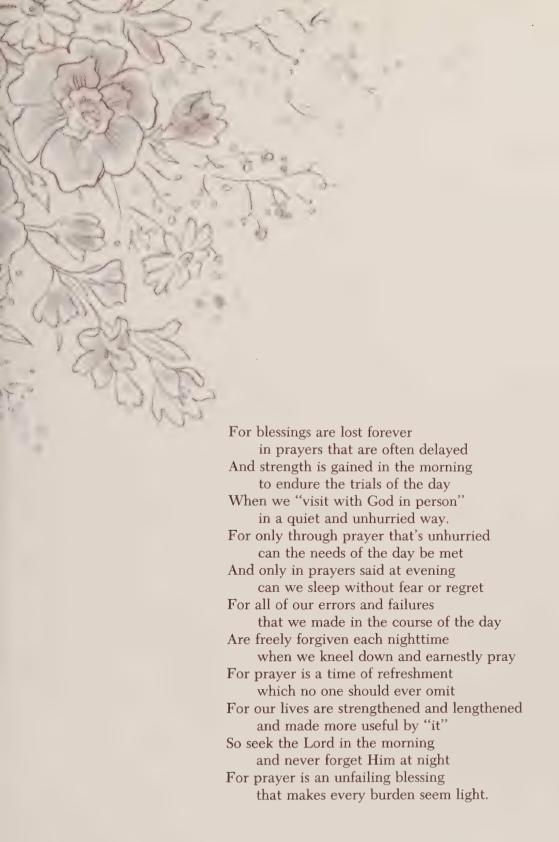
But moments of prayer once omitted
in the busy rush of the day

Can never again be recaptured
for they silently slip away.

And we never get back the freshness
that was wrapped in the morning prayer

That we were unable to offer
because there was no time to spare

And no one regains that blessing
that would have been theirs if they prayed



## The Mystery of Prayer

Beyond that which words can interpret Or theology can explain The soul feels a "shower of refreshment" That falls like the gentle rain On hearts that are parched with problems And are searching to find the way To somehow attract God's attention Through well-chosen words as they pray, Not knowing that God in His wisdom Can sense all man's worry and woe For there is nothing man can conceal That God does not already know So kneel in prayer in His presence And you'll find no need to speak For softly in silent communion God grants you the peace that you seek.



#### God, Are You There?

I'm way down here! You're way up there! Are You sure You can hear My faint, faltering prayer? For I'm so unsure Of just how to pray— To tell You the truth, God, I don't know what to say. I just know I am lonely And vaguely disturbed, Bewildered and restless, Confused and perturbed . . . And they tell me that prayer Helps to quiet the mind And to unburden the heart For in stillness we find A newborn assurance That Someone does care And Someone does answer Each small, sincere prayer!

#### Listen in the Quietness

To try to run away from life is impossible to do For no matter where you chance to go your troubles follow you For though the scenery's different when you look inside you'll find The same deep restless longings that you thought you left behind. So when life becomes a problem much too great for us to bear Instead of trying to escape let us withdraw in prayer For withdrawal means renewal if we withdraw to pray And listen in the quietness to hear what God will say.



# Anywhere Is a Place of Prayer if God Is There

I have prayed on my knees in the morning, I have prayed as I walked along, I have prayed in the silence and darkness And I've prayed to the tune of a song— I have prayed in the midst of triumph And I've prayed when I suffered defeat, I have prayed on the sands of the seashore Where the waves of the ocean beat— I have prayed in a velvet-hushed forest Where the quietness calmed my fears, I have prayed through suffering and heartache When my eyes were blinded with tears— I have prayed in churches and chapels, Cathedrals and synagogues, too, But often I've had the feeling That my prayers were not getting through, And I realized then that our Father Is not really concerned where we pray Or impressed by our manner of worship Or the eloquent words we say . . . He is only concerned with our feelings, And He looks deep into our heart And hears the "cry of our soul's deep need" That no words could ever impart . . . So it isn't the prayer that's expressive Or offered in some special spot, It's the sincere plea of a sinner And God can tell whether or not We honestly seek His forgiveness And earnestly mean what we say, And then and then only He answers The prayer that we fervently pray. 83

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23

## **An Unfailing Prescription**

But my prescription for you right now is one that a noted preacher once recommended . . . and it never fails to work . . . if it is followed precisely and without fail.

When you awaken read the Twenty-third Psalm ... do not recite it from memory ... read it very slowly and very carefully and with deep meditation. Do this again after you have had breakfast and after lunch and then after dinner and just before you go to bed.

Do not read it hurriedly . . . but think about each word and phrase and let your mind soak up the wonderful assurance there is in these words. Most of us know this Psalm by heart but we repeat it without ever realizing the great and full meaning of it. It is the *most powerful piece of writing* in this world.



Just think what it means to know that the Lord is your Shepherd and that He is leading you and anointing your scars and "heart-hurt" with the balm of His love. The more you think about this the more you become aware of its power. You can heal your body and mind and heart with this Psalm. God promises to restore your soul, revive your weary body, take you into a cool, clear place where you can rest . . . and no matter how steep the hill or the mountain is, the Lord is going to climb it with you.

Just writing this has already given me strength. The sheep are never afraid because they know the Shepherd will lead them into green pastures beside the still waters . . . and so as you come to dark places in your life just reach out for the hand of the Shepherd. If you stop and get very quiet and still you feel *the presence of God*.

I often say this when I am troubled . . . and I imagine I am just a "little lamb" who doesn't know where to go and that I have no one to follow but the Shepherd.

But I know the Shepherd will not let me fall over the precipice and He will not let me drink in the swift water for I might slip and fall in and I know that no matter what happens He will go with me even through the valley of the shadows. And with that knowledge what is there to fear?

He will bring you safely through no matter which "side of life or death" is your destination. You cannot lose . . . for He brings his children safely through everything.

Now, my dear, you just do this every day for a few weeks and you will be surprised how calm and wonderful you feel.



A Time to Mourn

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my
food day and night,
while men say to me all day long,
"Where is your God?"

These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go with the multitude,
leading the procession to the house of God,
with shouts of joy and thanksgiving
among the festive throng.

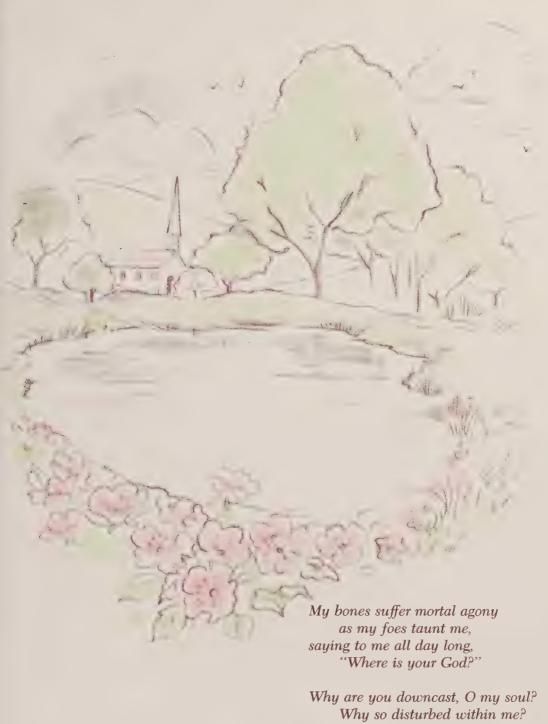
Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God my Rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?"



Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42



#### The Bright Side

I'm looking out the window and the day is drab and dreary, And I'm trying to console myself by thinking something cheery I know it's simply horrible to get in such a slump And I also know it's up to me to get across this hump And I realize I'm selfish to mention this to you For, gee, you might be feeling a little "low-down," too But often when I feel like this I tell myself it's true That I am not the only one who feels "low-down and blue" And just knowing there are others who feel the way I do Renews my sinking spirit and keeps me smiling through

And knowing that it's natural to take a "spirit-dive" Provides the spunk and courage to hang on and survive And while there are a lot of moods that we can drive away By looking on the bright side in all we do and say, There also is a loneliness that God meant us to feel But, gee, it sure is mighty hard to know which one is real And I'd hate to be a "sad sack" who never saw the sun And just complained that every day was such a dreary one But I know that all the dark days are just part of God's plan We should accept them graciously and do the best we can . . . So I'll just keep on trying for I know it's "Gospel true" There never was a cloud so dark the sun could not shine through!

91



I know, dear, this will be a period of physical pain and "heart-hurt" for you all, but it will also be a deep spiritual experience. It is terrible, but it is wonderful, too. Only through great suffering can we really come to know what God is really like, and inner strength comes from facing trouble and suffering and enduring it.

God wants us to "reap a great spiritual crop" from "the seeds of suffering and sorrow." And remember, God never makes mistakes and He never "plows" where He does not intend to "sow seeds"... and when He "sows spiritual seeds," there is always a "crop" to fill "the storehouse of the soul" to overflowing!

There are days so dark that I search in vain for the hand of my Friend Divine.



#### The End of the Road Is But a Bend in the Road

When we feel we have nothing left to give and we are sure that the "song has ended"— When our day seems over and the shadows fall and the darkness of night has descended. Where can we go to find the strength to valiantly keep on trying, Where can we find the hand that will dry the tears that the heart is crying— There's but one place to go and that is to God and, dropping all pretense and pride, We can pour out our problems without restraint and gain strength with Him at our side— And together we stand at life's crossroads and view what we think is the end. But God has a much bigger vision and He tells us it's only a bend-For the road goes on and is smoother, and the "pause in the song" is a "rest," And the part that's unsung and unfinished is the sweetest and richest and best— So rest and relax and grow stronger, let go and let God share your load,

Your work is not finished or ended,

you've just come to "a bend in the road."

93

## Dark Shadows Fall in the Lives of Us All

Sickness and sorrow come to us all, But through it we grow and learn to "stand tall"-For trouble is "part and parcel of life" And no man can grow without struggle and strife, And the more we endure with patience and grace The stronger we grow and the more we can face— And the more we can face, the greater our love, And with love in our hearts we are more conscious of The pain and the sorrow in lives everywhere, So it is through trouble that we learn how to share. 94



## The Seasons of the Soul

Why am I cast down and despondently sad When I long to be happy and joyous and glad? Why is my heart heavy with unfathomable weight As I try to escape this soul-saddened state? I ask myself often— "What makes life this way, Why is the song silenced in the heart that was gay?" And then with God's help it all becomes clear, The Soul has its Seasons just the same as the year— I, too, must pass through life's autumn of dying, A desolate period of "heart-hurt" and crying, Followed by winter in whose frostbitten hand My heart is as frozen as the snow-covered land-Yes, man, too, must pass through the seasons God sends, Content in the knowledge that everything ends, And, oh, what a blessing to know there are reasons And to find that our soul must, too, have its seasons-Bounteous Seasons and Barren Ones, too, Times for rejoicing and times to be blue, But meeting these seasons of dark desolation With strength that is born of anticipation That comes from knowing that "autumn-time sadness" Will surely be followed by a "springtime of gladness."



## Blessings Come in Many Guises

When troubles come and things go wrong, And days are cheerless and nights are long, We find it so easy to give in to despair By magnifying the burdens we bear-We add to our worries by refusing to try To look for "the rainbow" in an overcast sky-And the blessing God sent in a "darkened disguise" Our troubled hearts fail to recognize, Not knowing God sent it not to distress us But to strenghten our faith and redeem us and bless us.

## In Hours of Discouragement God Is Our Encouragement

Sometimes we feel uncertain And unsure of everything, Afraid to make decisions, Dreading what the day will bring— We keep wishing it were possible To dispel all fear and doubt And to understand more readily Tust what life is all about— God has given us the answers Which too often go unheeded, But if we search His promises We'll find everything that's needed To lift our faltering spirits And renew our courage, too, For there's absolutely nothing Too much for God to do-For the Lord is our salvation And our strength in every fight, Our redeemer and protector, Our eternal guiding light— He has promised to sustain us, He's our refuge from all harms, And underneath this refuge, Are the everlasting arms— So cast your burden on Him, Seek His counsel when distressed. And go to Him for comfort When you're lonely and oppressed— For God is our encouragement In trouble and in trials, And in suffering and in sorrow He will turn our tears to smiles.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe."

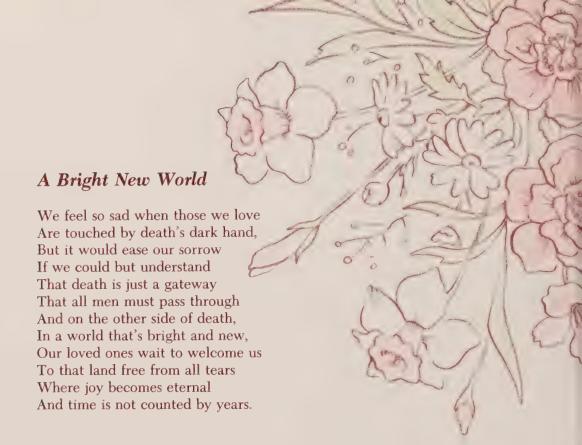
John 14:1-4; 27-29



#### When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for a little while, Please do not grieve and shed wild tears And hug your sorrow to you through the years, But start out bravely with a gallant smile; And for my sake and in my name Live on and do all things the same, Feed not your loneliness on empty days, But fill each waking hour in useful ways, Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near; And never, never be afraid to die. For I am waiting for you in the sky!



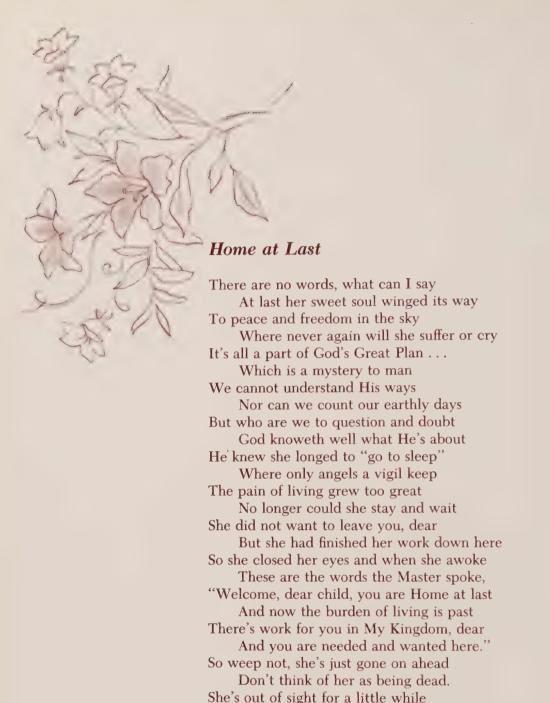


#### On the Loss of a Child

There are some things that no words have ever been invented to fit . . . and there is so little I can say to soften your sorrow or lessen the stabbing pain that fills your hearts today, for your loss is so keen and so new and so deep that your days are made up of nothing but "lost-loneliness" and "heart-hurt" at present, but in the months ahead you will gain strength that will enable you to realize that life stretches into *eternity* and it never ends, and your little one is not dead, she has only gone "back home to God," and she is hopping along gaily on the tip of a fluffy cloud and scampering through fields of enjoyment with the wind in her hair and blowing bubbles out of moonbeams and playing hide-and-seek with the stars.



This deep emotional and spiritual experience that you are sharing is one that will link you even closer together as you go through the years . . . for to share happiness brings joy to the heart—but to share sorrow is treasure for the soul, for love is a unity of the soul, and sorrow is only a closer joining. And in this tragedy you were drawn a little closer to God and to one another. And while your hearts hurt you now, you will find a newer and deeper beauty of "togetherness" since this tragedy came to clear your vision. Life takes on a deeper meaning and significance with every spiritual experience that is shared, and this truly is another evidence of the mystery of life and the impenetrable greatness of the Master Builder whose plans for our lives are without flaws, for He sees beyond the horizon of Today into the Eternal Tomorrow. We are all a part of God, and God is everywhere, and your little one just decided to go back to heaven instead of continuing her journey in a world so full of restlessness and turmoil. God is at the beginning and the end of everything, and there is nothing beyond Him . . . so find comfort in that thought.



And you'll miss her touch, and her little smile

Where there is nothing but Peace and Love

And Home at last, where she wanted to be.

But you know she is safe in the home above

And, surely, you would not deny her peace And you're glad she has found release

Think of her there as a soul that is free.

## On the Other Side of Death

Death is a Gateway we all must pass through To reach that Fair Land where the soul's born anew, For man's born to die and his sojourn on earth Is a short span of years beginning with birth And like pilgrims we wander until death takes our hand And we start on our journey to God's Promised Land, A place where we'll find no suffering nor tears, Where Time is not counted by days, months, or years And in this Fair City that God has prepared Are unending joys to be happily shared With all of our loved ones who patiently wait On Death's Other Side to open "the Gate"!

O merciful Father,
who hast taught us in thy holy Word
that thou dost not willingly
afflict or grieve the children of men:
Look with pity upon the sorrows of thy servant
for whom our prayers are offered.
Remember him, O Lord, in mercy,
nourish his soul with patience,
comfort him with a sense of thy goodness,
lift up thy countenance upon him,
and give him peace.
Amen.

Somewhere there is a Life Eternal Somewhere there is a Home, above. There is no night without a dawning, Beyond this death is God and Love.

#### Waiting at Eternity's Door



For none of us
need go alone
Into the valley
that's unknown
But guided by
our Father's hand
We journey to
the Promised Land . . .

And as his loving, faithful wife Who shared his home and heart and life,

You will find comfort for your grief,

In knowing death brought sweet relief,

For now he is free from all suffering and pain

And your "great loss" became his gain . . .

You know his love is with you still,

For he loved you in life and he always will . . .

For love like yours can never end

Because it is
the perfect blend

Of joys and sorrows, smiles and tears

That just grows stronger with the years

And love like this can never die,

For you "take it with you to the sky"...

So think of your loved one as living above

No farther away than your undying love . . .

And now he is happy and free once more

And he waits for you at eternity's door.





I just want to say again that, if we never suffered tragedy and we never felt sorrow, how could our souls ever grow? In my husband's tragic death, which was so hurried and unscheduled, it was difficult for me, when I was very young, to see what the purpose could have been. But now I know that he sacrificed his life that my life might be lived in a fuller and richer way, for his sudden death transformed my entire life. I never could have done what I am doing now if I had not felt the pangs of sorrow, for you cannot dry the tears of those who weep unless you have cried yourself.

I know, when death comes flashing out of a bright sky, suddenly and unexpectedly in the midst of youthful enjoyment when life is flushed with hope and filled with dreams, it is very, very difficult to accept God's judgment. It is hard to reconcile ourselves to such a loss when God asks us to give up someone young and in mid-career with abundant years stretching ahead of them, for to have a life so suddenly silenced is beyond our understanding.

But there is something brave and beautiful in passing at this "high peak" while standing on "tiptoe" into new fields of usefulness. And you must realize, dear, that he just rose unencumbered to meet God and he is safe and free, where all the problems of this restless, violent world will no longer disturb his young mind.

May God comfort you and show you the way. But remember, God does not comfort us to make us more comfortable. He comforts us so that we may also become comforters.

Words say so little when hearts mean so much.



I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, save me!"

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.

Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.
I believed; therefore I said,
"I am greatly afflicted."
And in my dismay I said,
"All men are liars."
How can I repay the Lord
for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.
I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

in the presence of all his people.

Psalms 116:1-15

Death Opens the Door to Life Evermore We live a short while on earth below. Reluctant to die for we do not know Just what "dark death" is all about And so we view it with fear and doubt. Not certain of what is around the bend We look on death as the final end To all that made us a mortal being And yet there lies just beyond our seeing A beautiful life so full and complete That we should leave with hurrying feet To walk with God by sacred streams Amid beauty and peace beyond our dreams— For all who believe in the risen Lord

That we should leave with hurrying feet
To walk with God by sacred streams
Amid beauty and peace beyond our dreams—
For all who believe in the risen Lord
Have been assured of this reward,
And death for them is just "graduation"
To a higher realm of wide elevation—
For life on earth is a transient affair,
Just a few brief years in which to prepare
For a life that is free from pain and tears
Where time is not counted by hours or years—
For death is only the method God chose
To colonize heaven with the souls of those
Who by their apprenticeship on earth
Proved worthy to dwell in the land of new birth—
So death is not sad . . . it's a time for elation,
A joyous transition . . . the soul's emigration
Into a place where the soul's safe and free

To live with God through eternity!



# A Time for Peace

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9



I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
Indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121





### A Little Closer to God

These past few months I have been going through many hours of "soul searching" and walking through "dark hours" that come to us all. But I know God is behind the "dark cloud" that engulfs me, and I must endure it until He removes the "darkness," for this is not a destructive experience but a constructive one. I am sure He is trying to awaken me to a new awareness of how to best serve Him. And after my old self dies completely, I will have moved a little closer to God!

There is no prayer too great or small To ask of God who hears them all— So put your problems in God's Hand And do not ask to understand!

### The Peace You Seek

Another hill and sometimes a mountain

But just when you reach the peak-Your weariness is lifted And you find the peace you seek 116

## Days of Beauty and Peace

For God in His loving and all-wise way
Makes the heart that once was young and gay
Serene and more gentle and less restless, too,
Content to remember the joys it once knew
And all that I sought on the pathway of pleasure
Becomes but a memory to cherish and treasure—
The fast pace grows slower and the spirit serene,
And the soul can envision what the eyes have not
seen

And so while life's springtime is sweet to recall, The autumn of life is the best time of all, For our wild, youthful yearnings all gradually cease And God fills our days with *beauty* and *peace!* 



# I Said a Little Prayer for You

I said a little prayer for you and I asked the Lord above To keep you safely in His care and enfold you in His love I did not ask for fortune for riches or for fame I only asked for blessings in the Saviour's Holy name Blessings to surround you in times of trial and stress And inner joy to fill your heart with peace and happiness.



### Priceless Treasures

What could I give you that would truly please In "topsy-turvy times" like these? I can't give you freedom from vexations Or even lessen your irritations I can't take away or even make less The things that annoy, disturb, and distress For stores don't sell a single thing To make the heart that's troubled sing They sell "the new look" suave and bland But nothing that lends a "helping hand," They sell rare gifts that are ultra-smart But nothing to warm or comfort the heart The joys of life that cheer and bless, The stores don't sell, I must confess But friends and prayers are "priceless treasures" Beyond all monetary measures . . .

And so I say a special prayer
that God will keep you in His care . . .
And if I can ever help you, dear,
in any way throughout the year,
You've only to call, for as long as I live
"Such as I have, I freely give!"

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."



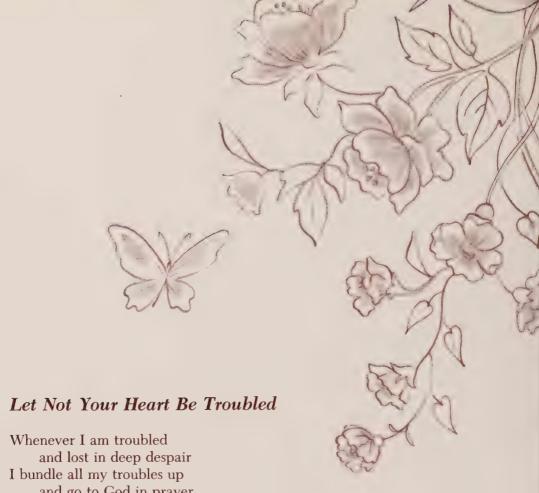


# God Is Always Beside You

Whatever betide you, God is always beside you— So "let not your heart be troubled" nor your mind be filled with fear For you have God's reassurance that He's always very near, And no prayer goes unanswered and no one walks alone And if we trust the Saviour we are never on our own-

And the "helping hands of Anniston" will be praying for you, too, And in the loving Father's care





Whenever I am troubled
and lost in deep despair
I bundle all my troubles up
and go to God in prayer
I tell Him I am heartsick
and lost and lonely, too,
That my mind is deeply burdened
and I don't know what to do
But I know He stilled the tempest
and calmed the angry sea
And I humbly ask if in His love
He'll do the same for me
And then I just keep quiet
and think only thoughts of Peace
And if I abide in stillness
my "restless murmurings" cease.



# The Way to Love and Peace

There is no thinking person Who can stand untouched today And view the world around us Slowly drifting to decay Without feeling deep within them A silent, unnamed dread As they contemplate the future That lies frighteningly ahead And as the "clouds of chaos" Gather in man's muddled mind. And he searches for the answer He alone can never find. Let us recognize we're facing Problems man has never solved. And with all our daily efforts Life grows more and more involved. But our future will seem brighter And we'll meet with less resistance If we call upon our Father And seek Divine Assistance For the spirit can unravel Many tangled, knotted threads That defy the skill and power Of the world's best hands and heads, And our plans for growth and progress. Of which we all have dreamed. Cannot survive materially Unless our spirits are redeemed For only when the mind of man Is united with the soul Can Love and Peace combine to make Our lives complete and whole.



Grant, O God,
that your holy and life-giving Spirit
may move every human heart
that barriers which divide us may crumble,
suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease;
that our divisions being healed,
we may live in justice and peace.
Amen.

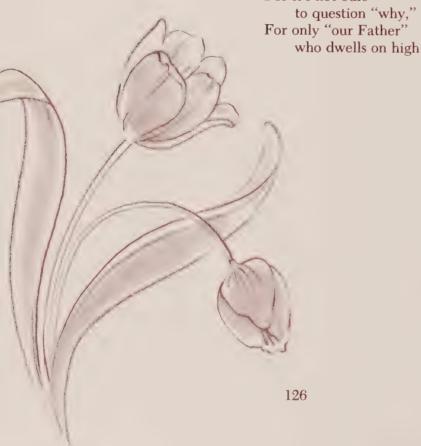


# Peace Begins in the Home and the Heart

Peace is not something you fight for With bombs and missiles that kill, Nor can it be won in a "battle of words" Man fashions by scheming and skill For men who are greedy and warlike, Whose avarice for power cannot cease, Can never contribute in helping To bring this world nearer to peace For in seeking peace for all people There is only one place to begin And that is in each home and heart—For the fortress of peace is within!

### Tender Watch

When the way seems long and the Day is dark, And we can't hear the song of the thrush or the lark. And our hearts are heavy with sickness and care. And we are lost in the depths of despair . . . That is the time when faith alone Can lead us out of "the dark unknown," For faith to believe when "the way is rough" And faith to "hang on" when "the going is tough" Will never fail to pull us through And bring us Strength and Comfort, too . . . For it's not ours



Knows all the answers and reasons, too, And His master plan is Perfect and True . . .

So do not try to understand,

Just take the Saviour's loving hand

And let Him lead you where He will

Through "Pastures green" and "Waters still"...

And though the way ahead seems steep,

Be not afraid for He will keep

Tender watch through night and day

And He will hear each prayer you pray . . .

So place yourself in His loving care

And He will gladly help you bear

Whatever lies ahead of you

For God will see you safely through!

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30



## No Favor Do I Seek Today

I come not to ask, to plead or implore You,
I just come to tell You how much I adore You,
For to kneel in Your Presence makes me feel blest
For I know that You know all my needs best...
And it fills me with joy just to linger with You
As my soul You replenish and my heart You renew
For prayer is much more than just asking for things—
It's the Peace and Contentment that Quietness brings...
So thank You again for Your Mercy and Love
And for making me heir to Your Kingdom above!

### A NOTE TO THE READER

This book was selected by the same editors who prepare *Guideposts*, a monthly magazine filled with true stories of people's adventures in faith.

If you have found inspiration in this book, we think you'll find monthly help and inspiration in the exciting stories that appear in our magazine.

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Discover in a fresh way the wonder of receiving and giving God's love. Lavishly illustrated in color by artist Cassandre Maxwell, *A Time to Love* is a book to be treasured.



Helen Steiner Rice penned an estimated two million poems throughout her lifetime. More than five million copies of her books and booklets and over 80 million of her greeting cards have been sold. Her best-sellers include Someone Cares, Heart Gifts, Loving Promises, and Remembering With Love.



